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For Immediate Release: Aug. 21, 2003

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Kernan Announces \$99,400 in Grants to Train 318 Southern Indiana Workers

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that two Southern Indiana companies have been awarded \$99,400 in training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Skills Enhancement Fund.

"The commitment that these Hoosier companies have to it's employees is motivating," said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts as director of Commerce. "Supporting them will help boost Indiana's future economic status and we are glad to partner with them."

- **American Steel Cord/Michelin North America**, Scottsburg, has been awarded a \$63,000 grant to train 18 new and 188 incumbent employees as part of a \$700,000 investment in building and equipment upgrades. Founded in 1990 with operations beginning in 1991 under the name of Kokoku Steel, American Steel Cord manufactures steel cord suitable for the tire industry. Its customers include Michelin and Uniroyal/Goodrich tires. Using the Commerce grant, training will be provided in French reading and writing, business literacy, train-the-trainer, chorus modules and team building skills.
- **Austin Tri-Hawk Automotive Inc.**, Austin, will receive \$36,400 to train 112 current employees in conjunction with the company's \$25 million investment in new equipment and infrastructure improvements. The company produces integrated assemblies that require involvement with robot welding, retainer of fixture design and internal coordination of related parts production. Austin Tri-Hawk will also offer training in pneumatics, problem solving, computer skills, electrical systems, machine systems, hydraulics, robotics and welding.

The Commerce department awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.